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DE WTE #5558 2722133  
O 292210Z SEP 75  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 10//

TO BARRIAN/COVEY FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA BLACK PATCH WH51005

TOHAK 10

SEPTEMBER 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER  
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM  
SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

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PORTUGUESE SITUATION REPORT: PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO'S ORDER THIS MORNING FOR MILITARY TROOPS TO OCCUPY RADIO AND TV STATIONS IN LISBON COULD PRECIPITATE A CONFRONTATION WITH LEFTIST FORCES. A MILITARY UNIT APPARENTLY DEFIED ITS ORDERS AND SIDED WITH THE WORKERS AT ONE STATION -- RADIO CLUBE -- WHICH HAS BEEN BROADCASTING CALLS FOR A MASS DEMONSTRATION IN LISBON THIS AFTERNOON TO PROTEST THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION. THE UNITED REVOLUTIONARY FRONT, WHICH ENCOMPASSES SEVERAL LEFTWING FRINGE GROUPS HAS CALLED FOR A GENERAL STRIKE. SO FAR, THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LABOR CONFEDERATION INTERSINDICAL HAS NOT JOINED THE STRIKE CALL. EXCEPT AT RADIO CLUBE, AZEVEDO'S MOVE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN EFFECTIVE. ALL OTHER STATIONS APPEAR UNDER CONTROL AND ARE AVOIDING COMMENT ON THE SECURITY SITUATION. ONLY SMALL LEFTWING GROUPS HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CALLS FOR MASSIVE PROTEST SO FAR, ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIST PARTY MAY BE

\*\*\*\*\* WHSR COMMENT \*\*\*\*\*

MCFARLANE, RODMAN, SDO, SECLE

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

INDIRECTLY INVOLVED WHILE MAINTAINING OFFICIAL SILENCE. WITH DISCIPLINE POOR AND LOYALTY DOUBTFUL IN THE ARMED FORCES, AZEVEDO HAS TAKEN SOMETHING OF A GAMBLE. IT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO BACK HIS MOVE IF THERE IS A STRONG REACTION. SHOULD HE BE FORCED TO BACK DOWN -- AS THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAS ON ITS EARLIER BAN ON NEWS REPORTING OF MILITARY POLITICAL ACTIVITY -- IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE CREDIBILITY AND LONGER TERM PROSPECTS FOR THIS GOVERNMENT.

25X1

THE WASHINGTON STAR

JOSEPH TREASTER REPORTS THAT TEN WEEKS AGO, THE ARMY PROMISED TO CONDUCT FOLLOW-UP EXAMINATIONS OF ABOUT 550 SOLDIERS TO WHOM IT GAVE LSD, BUT A SPOKESMAN DISCLOSED YESTERDAY THAT THE SERVICE HAS NOT YET TRIED TO REACH ANY OF THE MEN. (A-1)

JOHN ORGAN REPORTS FROM MADRID THAT VIOLENT PROTESTS OVER THE EXECUTION OF FIVE ANTIGOVERNMENT TERRORISTS DURING THE WEEKEND MAY HERALD FURTHER RADICALIZATION OF SPAIN AS GENERALISSIMO FRANCISCO FRANCO REFUSED TO LOOSEN HIS TIGHT GRIP ON THE COUNTRY. (A-1)

A STAR EDITORIAL SAYS THAT THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT OF MODERATE OUTLOOK AND DEMOCRATIC INTENT AROUSES FRESH HOPE THAT THE COUNTRY WILL JOIN THE MAINSTREAM OF WESTERN EUROPE. THE NEW GOVERNMENT FACES SUBSTANTIAL LAW-AND-ORDER CHALLENGES, POSED BY EXTREMISTS OF THE RIGHT AND LEFT AND THE ILLEGAL INROADS MADE BY MILITANT COMMUNISTS TO TAKE OVER TRADE UNIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS. BUT PORTUGAL HAS A BETTER CHANCE NOW TO ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY AND A REASONABLE LIFE FOR ITS LONG-SUFFERING CITIZENS. THE LITTLE NATION, WHICH MAY REMAIN A FAITHFUL NATO ALLY FOR YEARS TO COME, DESERVES AMERICAN HELP TO BRING THIS ABOUT. (A-16)

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